IMPROVED SOCIAL STATUS BY ADOTING BIVOLTINE SERICULTURE

Agriculture to sericulture:

Challenge:

Mr. Byrappa s/o Karikappa by profession he is a farmer and was practicing agriculture by cultivating Ragi in his lands (nearly 3 acres) in a remote area of Karnataka known as Muthanoor, situated at Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District. His lands were surrounded by forests and waste lands of inter state area of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. He was passing his rough days of his life with the poor income gained from his agriculture, particularly from Ragi. He was having ambitions to elevate his social status and having discussions with his friends at Bangarpet who are economically sound. One suggested him to practice sericulture so that you would have improved income and this would enable to elevate your standard of living.. Well, he was positive and wanted to start sericulture in the year 2007 by converting **half an acre** of land in to mulberry cultivation and kept his other land for the production of Ragi for his sustenance.

Initiative:

The urge in leading the life like other friends of him at Bangarpet made him to start the sericulture and he has planted Local variety and M5 in Kolar row system as he did not know the other available varieties and other technologies available in the field. Once the plants have grown, he started the silkworm rearing with cross breeds 50 DFLs in a side portion of his house. He was not having much space for the effective silkworm rearing in his residential area hence he planned to go for a separate rearing house as suggested by his friends. He got partial to good crops from the sericulture and tasted the constant earning from sericulture. He was expressing his agony of not knowing sericulture much and his friends advised him to contact Department of Sericulture, Karnataka to get additional information. He has gone to nearby Technical service centre, Bangarpet and started collecting information about sericulture

Key result:

At a point of time he realized that sericulture with extended area would yield him more income. His financial conditions are not very sound and he was enquiring about the subsidies and other schemes to promote sericulture with DoS officials. DoS have suggested going for RKVY scheme where in he may get more subsidy for his rearing house. More enthused Byrappa, with the confidence gained from his sericulture practice and the constant income for livelihood, converted a total of 2.2 acres of ragi land into a new variety of mulberry V1 and got Rs. 1.37,000/- as subsidy, from RKVY scheme, to construct a separate rearing house, with a measurement of 50'.6" width and 22'.6". His main interest was to rear the so called white cocoons (Bivoltine silkworms) and he wants the guidance to rear the same.

Impact and lessons learned:

His construction of a separate house for bivoltine silkworm was achieved by the RKVY scheme and his continuous interest to get big success in sericulture was planned to rear the bivoltine silkworms. He did approach the Sericulture officers and scientists so as to start the bivoltine. He got all support from the Cluster promotion program of CSB and DoS, and managed to learn all the sericulture technology such as proper disinfection using sprayer, indenting only chawki worms, 3' X 3' plantation system, shoot rearing system, usage of bed disinfectants and improved plantation maintenance in his garden by Trenching and Mulching to improve the soil fertility, drip irrigation to provide the sustainable water management, usage of micronutrients to get a good quality leaves, application of farm yard manure, Green manure and biofertilzers, crop protection by biological control methods are known to him from various extension communication program conducted specially for the bivoltine sericulture farmers in this village.

Final outcome:

Ever since, he started bivoltine silkworm rearing with the support of DoS and CSB, he got the best harvest from his farm rearing of nearly 225 to 250 DFLs per batch and continuously every month he was having the silkworm rearing. The average yield from his farm rearing has reached up to 85 Kg/100DFLs and his net income is more than Rs. 50,000/- per crop. He is a most successful rearer and his social status is elevated by having 2 motor cycles, house hold articles like refrigerator, TV, washing machine and providing education to his children at a distant place by hiring a vehicle for their commutation. RKVY Scheme and Bivoltine sericulture has improved his life style and has elevated his social status in his village and Mr. Byrappa is the proud sericulture farmer in the village of Muthanoor.

Supporting Quotes:

Mr P.Narayanaswamy, Taluk panchayth member.

Smt Parvathamma and her family from Hulibele village, earlier they were mainly depending on vegetables, and from these crops they were not getting good income, with intervention of the department and RKVY scheme they started silkworm rearing and getting net income of Rs 40000-50000/- per month now they are most successful sericulturist and leading their life happily.

Additional information

1.list of all project partners and/or donors who supported the work.

Officers from the Department of Sericulture

Scientist and officers of Central silk Board

Rastriya Krushi VIkas Yojana (RKVY)

Progressive farmers of his surrounding area

Elected representatives of his area

2.Contact person for this story

Name : S.N.Srinivas

Position: Assistant Director of Sericultrue

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1.Silkworm Rearing House photo

Separate rearing house constructed under RKVY, departmental officers visited the site, inspected and recommended for subsidy.

2.Silkworm Rearing house inside photo

Inside the rearing house racks prepared for silk worm rearing and crop is under progress

3. Mulberry Garden of Mr Byappa

New improved V1 mulberry variety planted and for irrigation he has installed drip irrigation system

4.Rearing Equipments

Mr Byrappa availed the subsidy from the department in other schemes he has purchased plastic collapsible mountages and power sprayers for his rearing activity.